

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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TAGS AORG OCON ETEL ITU

SUBJ ITU: 29TH ADMIN COUNCIL OPENS JUNE 15

1. ITU'S 29TH ADMIN COUNCIL OPENED SATURDAY, JUNE 15, WITH ALL 36 MEMBERS PRESENT EXCEPT ZAIRE AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. AFTER INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN (HAFFNER OF NIGERIA) AND VICE CHAIRMAN (CHAZAL OF LEBANON) AND ADDRESS BY SYG, COUNCIL ELECTED, BY ACCLAMATION, FOLLOWING CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN OF THREE STANDING COMMITTEES:

- A. COMMITTEE 1--RUTSCHI (SWITZERLAND); CHAIRMAN, KATONA KIS(HUNGARY), VICE CHAIRMAN;
- B. COMMITTEE 2--MEYER (UK), CHAIRMAN; HERNANDEZ (MEXICO), VICE CHAIRMAN;
- C. COMMITTEE 3--NELSON (US) CHAIRMAN; ZAIDAN (SAUDI ARABIA), VICE CHAIRMAN.

2. IN HIS ADDRESS SYG MILI HIGHLIGHTED EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON FINANCIAL LIMITS SET ON BUDGET AT TORREMOLINOS CONFERENCE (1973) IN FINAL PROTOCOL. HE IMPLIED COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE ACTION IN FUTURE TO GET LIMITS RAISED BY VOTE OF MEMBERSHIP. (IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH US REP ON JUNE 14, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE COUNCIL TO DO SO THIS YEAR; HOWEVER, US REP DISCOURAGED SUCH ACTION ON ASIS NOT TIMELY SINCE

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TORREMOLINOS CONVENTION NOT YET IN EFFECT AND IT APPEARS

LIMITS ARE ADEQUATE FOR 1974 AND 1975 BUDGETS. SEPARATELY
OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS--SWITZERLAND FOR ONE--TOLD US REP THEY
WOULD NOT SUPPORT MILI'S IDEA ON THIS QUESTION.)

3. OTHER FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS OF SYG'S OPENING
ADDRESS WERE:

A. MONETARY CRISIS FACING UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HAS
GONE ON FOR THREE YEARS. SINCE 1973 SESSION OF COUNCIL
EXCHANGE RATE BETWEEN US DOLLAR AND SWISS FRANC HAS HAD TO
BE CHANGED NINE (9) TIMES BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES IN GENEVA.
B. INFLATION THAT RAN AT ANNUAL RATE OF 5 TO 6 PERCENT
TWO YEARS AGO IS NOW RUNNING AT 12 PERCENT.
C. MONETARY SITUATION HAS MADE ESTIMATES OF COST OF
SUPPLIES AND SERVICES UNCERTAIN. "IN 1975 BUDGET IT WAS
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO KEEP STRICTLY NECESSARY ESTIMATES
WITHIN LIMITS LAID DOWN BY TORREMOLINOS CONFERENCE. IT WILL
BE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THIS IN RESPECT OF 1976
BUDGET IF ACTIVITIES OF UNION ARE TO DEVELOP AS THEY SHOULD."
D. MONETARY CRISIS HAS HAD SHATTERING EFFECT ON UNDP
SUPPORT COST PAYMENTS. "FOR US IN GENEVA, WHERE ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENDITURE HAS TO BE PAID IN SWISS FRANCS, INCOME HAS BEEN CUT
BY MORE THAN 30 PERCENT."
E. UNDP ADMINISTRATOR HAS DECIDED TO ASK UNDP GOVERNING
COUNCIL TO INCREASE RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR 1974 AND 1975
PROVISIONALLY BY 1 PERCENT, RAISING IT FROM 13 PERCENT TO 14
PERCENT.
F. UNION'S FINANCES. THIS YEAR UNION LOANS FROM SWISS
CONFEDERATION MAY TOTAL CLOSE TO 15 MILLION FRANCS. "VERY
FAVORABLE INTEREST RATE (6 PERCENT)--MOST RECENT LOAN--WE ENJOY
THANKS TO GENEROSITY OF SWITZERLAND COSTS OUR HOSTS DEAR.
GIVEN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION IN WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF UNION
FIND THEMSELVES, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY IRREGULAR THAT ONLY ONE OF
THEM SHOULD HAVE TO SHOULDER CONSEQUENCES OF THIS SITUATION."

4. MAIN POINTS OF SYG'S COMMENTS ON PERSONNEL PROBLEMS OF ITU
WERE:

A. IN EXECUTION OF PERSONNEL POLICY APPROVED BY TORREMOLINOS
CONFERENCE, SYG, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CHIEF OF PERMANENT
ORGAN CONCERNED, MAY TEMPORARILY ASSIGN STAFF MEMBERS FROM
ANY ONE OF FOUR SPECILIZED SECRETARIATS (CCIR, CCITT, IFRB,
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GEN. SECRETARIAT) TO DUTIES OTHER THAN THOSE THEY NORMALLY
PERFORM.

B. TORREMOLINOS RESOLUTION NO. 4 CONTAINS TWO IDEAS (1)
EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT
MUST BE INTRODUCED; AND (2) CLASSIFICATION OF POSTS MUST BE
BASED ON THAT SYSTEM.

C. TO IMPLEMENT ABOVE, RECRUITMENT OF SPECIALIST TO
HANDLE BOTH ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

QUESTIONS AS WELL AS POST CLASSIFICATION, MUST BE CONSIDERED. (SYG INFORMED US REP HE INTENDED TO CREATE THIS POST NEXT YEAR WITHOUT ADDING TO MANNING TABLE. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO MOVE LEGAL ADVISER (ZEKRI OF ALGERIA) INTO POST OF DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS WHEN INCUMBENT, STEAD (UK) RETIRES END 1974 AND TO ABOLISH LEGAL ADVISER POST THUS FREEING P-5 SLOT FOR NEW MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST. LATTER WOULD WORK DIRECTLY FOR COORDINATION COMMITTEE, NOT FOR PERSONNEL DIRECTOR).

D. PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR PERIODIC REVIEW OF POST CLASSIFICATION PLAN. "WE WISH TO ASK ADMINISTRATIONS TO LEND UNION SERVICES OF TWO OR THREE GRADING EXPERTS FOR SHORT PERIOD TO CARRY OUT GENERAL REVIEW OF ALL PERMANENT POSTS IN UNION."

5. COMMITTEE I (FINANCE) WILL CONVENE MONDAY AFTERNOON TO START CONSIDERATION OF 1974 BUDGET. (US REP URGED SYG AND CHAIRMAN RUTSCHI OF FINANCE COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE WORK ON 1974 BUDGET URGENTLY. BOTH AGREED THIS HAD TOP PRIORITY AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED DURING WEEK OF JUNE 17.)DALE

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